# DATA FERRETT For the Current Population Survey

October 2010 Edition

### Introduction

Beta Data FERRETT is a great tool for accessing Census Data when more detail is required than is provided in the pre-prepared tables. Data FERRETT allows users who are familiar with different types of Current Population Survey (CPS) data to compare variables of their choosing. CPS data users who may not be familiar with programs such as SAS, STATA, or SPSS can get detail they may not have been able to access otherwise. One word of caution - Beta Data FERRETT is not a substitute for SAS, STATA, or SPSS, because the power and utility of these programs does become necessary, as a user's analysis becomes more complex.

Before getting started with Data FERRETT, users should become familiar with the CPS, how it is conducted, and the variable names and ranges. Visit <a href="http://www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html">http://www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html</a> and browse the technical documentation to obtain abundant information on the CPS and CPS supplements. There's also information from the history of the survey on how variances and standard errors are calculated. Don't forget to look at the data dictionary which contains the variables and the possible values of those variables; the most current version of this document is located at <a href="main.html">http://www.bls.census.gov/pub/cps/basic/201001/jan10dd.txt</a> (however, this last version does not list supplement information). This will allow one to navigate through Data FERRETT much more efficiently.

After obtaining an understanding of the variable composition of a survey, you must then think about the question you are trying to answer. This allows you to, more easily locate the variables needed to answer your question.

This example will cover only basic CPS data. It will not address any of the supplements that accompany the CPS. For more information on these consult the technical documentation for those supplements.

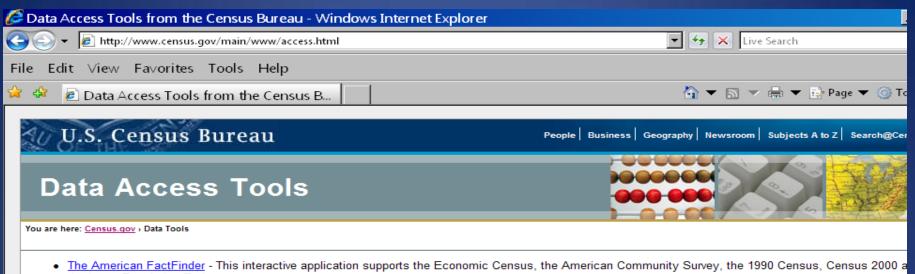
# Question

For this example the question is:

"How do unemployment rates compare across demographic details like sex and Hispanic origin?"



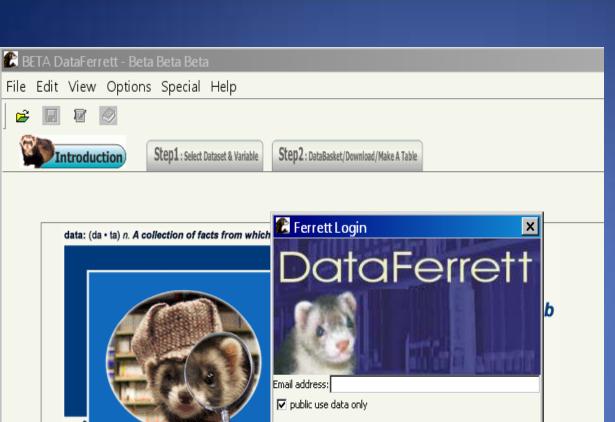
- Go to the Census home page: www.census.gov
- Click on the data tools link



- the latest Population Estimates.
- Census 2000 EEO Data Tool Using the web-based tool, you can select tabulations for various levels of geography based on residence or workplace. The data estimates available present information for various occupation groupings by race and ethnicity and sex.
- Interactive Internet Tools
  - Censtats Applications available include: Census Tract Street Locator, County Business Patterns, Zip Business Patterns, International Trade Data, and more
  - QuickFacts State and County QuickFacts provides frequently requested Census Bureau information at the national, state, county, and city level.
  - Online Mapping Tools using TIGER and the American FactFinder
  - US Gazetteer Place name, and ZIP code search engine.
  - <u>DataFerrett</u> (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ta librarian that searches and retrieves data across federal, state, and local surveys, executes customized variable recoding, creates complex tabulations and business graphics. Current Population Survey, Survey of Income and Program Participation, American Community Survey, American Housing Survey, Small Area Income Poverty Estimates, Population Estimates, Economic Census Areawide Statistics National Center for Health Statistics data, Centers for Disease Control data, and more.
    - DataFerrett's newest tool, the Community Economic Development HotReport provides community and business leaders speedy access to informatic on counties and the Employment & Training Administration's Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) areas across the U.
- Once there, click on the DataFerrett Link.



- There are two places to click that will launch the web application of Beta Data Ferrett.
  - Click either link.



#### About The Data Web

A collaborative network of Internet data bases ...

ferret: (fer' • it) v. To uncover and to bring to list

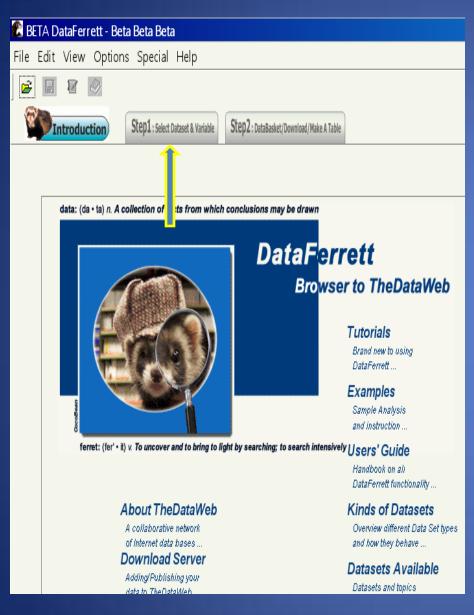
#### Download Server

Adding/Publishing your

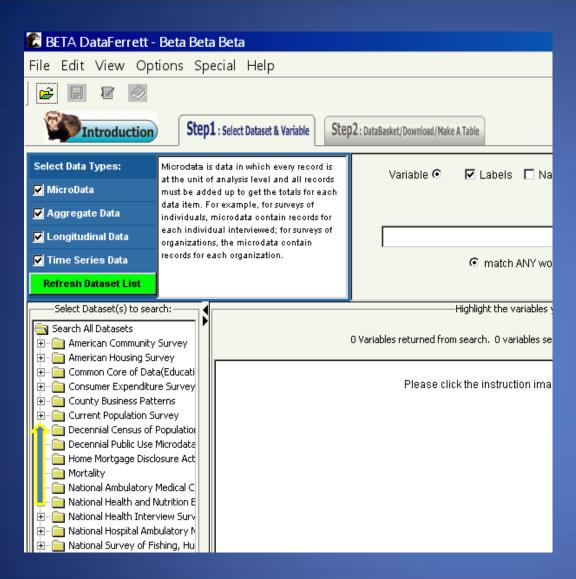
The email address is used to send large extracts via email, and to inform users of new datasets available if desired. It is NOT used for any other purpose or shared with any organization. Cancel Java Applet Window

Datasets and topics

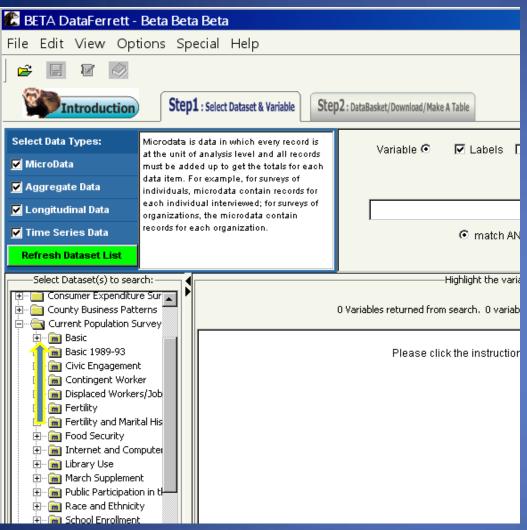
- A pop-up window will come up.
- Enter a valid email address to proceed. The email address is used to send large extracts via email, and to inform users of new datasets available if desired. It is not used for any other purpose or shared with any organization.
- Please note: Ensure that pop-ups are enabled (click the yellow bar at the top and select "always allow for this site"). The security certificate must be downloaded and installed to export or download data.



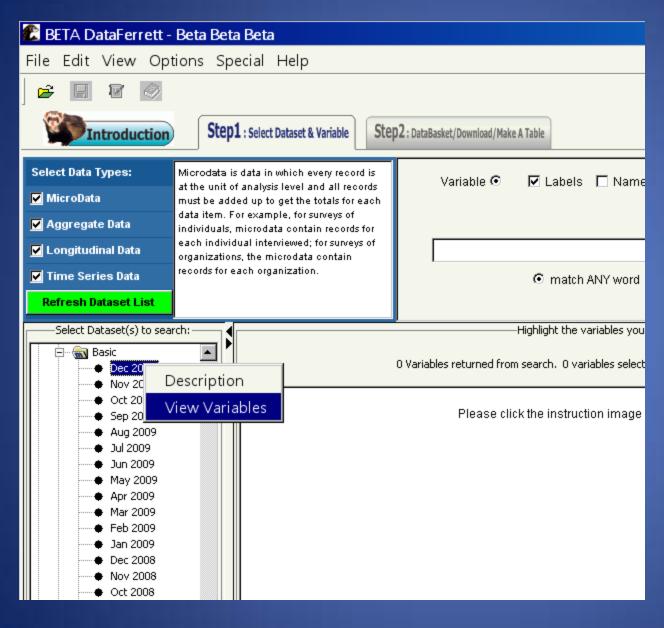
- After clicking "ok" on the disclaimer for using the Beta version of Data Ferrett, you will be brought to the introduction screen.
- Use the tutorials and examples located here, which serve as a great addition to this document for learning how to use Data Ferrett.
- After exploring the options on this screen click on Step1: Select Dataset & Variables.



 In the "Select Dataset(s) to search" box, open the folder for the Current Population survey



• Open the folder named "Basic".



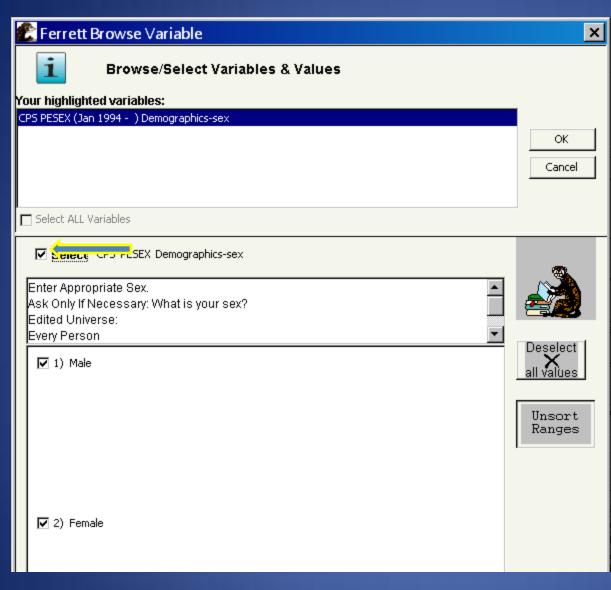
- For this example, Dec
   2009 data will be used.
- Click on Dec 2009, and then select View Variables.



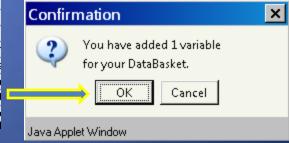
- Click the check boxes next to Labor Force Variables and Demographic Variables.
- Then click the Search Variables icon.

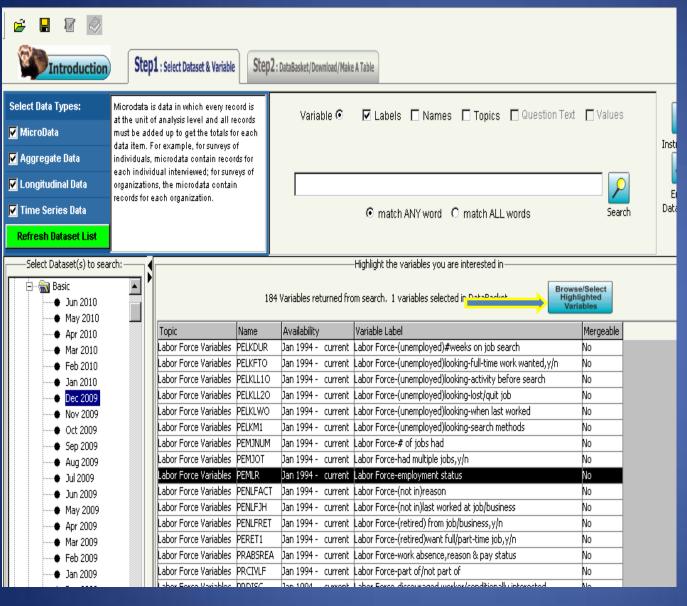
Microdata is data in which every record is: ✓ Labels ☐ Names ☐ Topics ☐ Question Text ☐ Values Variable 💽 at the unit of analysis level and all records must be added up to get the totals for each Insl data item. For example, for surveys of individuals, microdata contain records for each individual interviewed; for surveys of organizations, the microdata contain records for each organization. Dat match ANY word
 C match ALL words Search -Highlight the variables you are interested in-Browse/Select 184 Variables returned from search. O variables selected in Date Highlighted Variable Label Topic Availability Mergeable Labor Force Variables HUBUS Dan 1994 - current Labor Force-presence of business/farm in hhld, y/n Dan 1994 - current Labor Force-line numbers of business/farm owners 1 Labor Force Variables HUBUSL1 Labor Force Variables HUBUSL2 Dan 1994 - current Labor Force-line numbers of business/farm owners 2 No. Labor Force Variables HUBUSL3 Dan 1994 - current Labor Force-line numbers of business/farm owners 3 No. Labor Force Variables HUBUSL4 Dan 1994 - current Labor Force-line numbers of business/farm owners 4 Demographic Variables PEAFNOW Dan 1994 - current Demographics-currently in armed forces, v/n Nο Demographic Variables PEEDUCA Dan 1994 - current Demographics-highest level of school completed No. Demographic Variables PEMARITL Dan 1994 - current Demographics-marital status Demographic Variables PEPARENT Dan 1994 - current Demographics-parent line number Nο Demographic Variables PERRP Dan 1994 - current Demographics-relationship to reference person Demographic Variables PESEX Dan 1994 - current Demographics-sex No Demographic Variables PESPOUSE | Dan 1994 - | current | Demographics-spouse line number No. Dan 1994 - current Demographics-citizenship allocation flag Demographic Variables PRCITFLG Demographic Variables PRCITSHP Dan 1994 - current Demographics-United States citizenship group Demographic Variables PREAMNUM Dan 1994 - | current | Demographics-family number Nο Demographic Variables PRFAMREL | Dan 1994 - | current | Demographics-family relationship(recode) No. Demographic Variables PRFAMTYP | Dan 1994 - | current | Demographics-family type(recode) Demographic Variables PRMARSTA | Dan 1994 - | current | Demographics-marital status(recode) | No. Demographic Variables PRPERTYP | Dan 1994 - current | Demographics-person type(recode)

- A new window appears, to highlight the variables you are interested in.
- Highlight PESEX and then click
   Browse\Select
   Highlighted Variables.

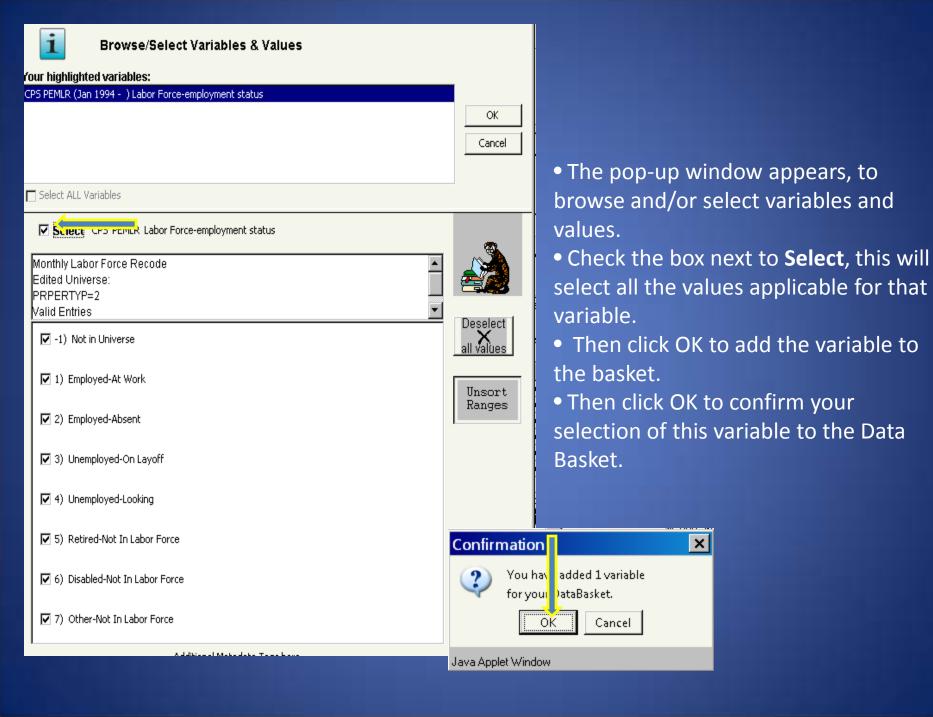


- A pop-up window appears, to browse and/or select variables and values.
- •Check the box next to **Select**, then click ok
- Then click OK to confirm your selection of this variable to the Data Basket.





- Now you're back at the variable selection screen.
  Scroll through the list of variables and
- highlight PEMLR.
  Then click
  Browse\Select
  Highlighted
  Variables.



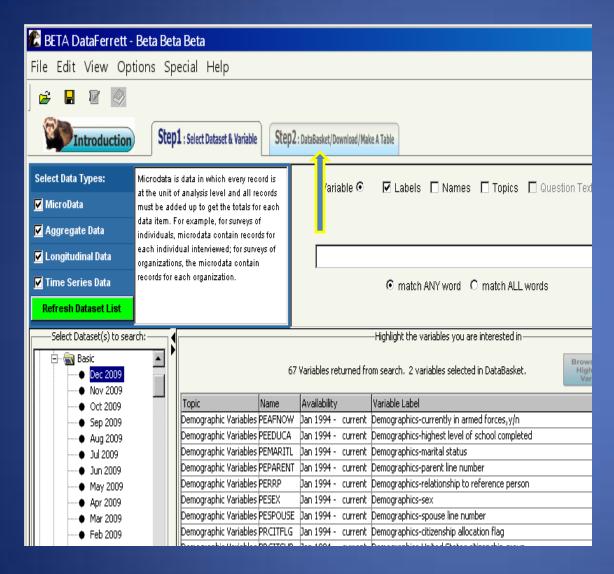
Introduction Step 1 : Select Dataset & Variable Step 2 : DataBasket/Download/Make A Table				
MicroData at da	licrodata is data in which every record is t the unit of analysis level and all records ust be added up to get the totals for each ata item. For example, for surveys of dividuals, microdata contain records for	Variable		
Longitudinal Data on	dominates, includate contain reconstructions for surveys of rganizations, the microdata contain records for each organization.			Search
Select Dataset(s) to search			Highlight the variables you are interested in	
□ ■ Basic		184 Variables returned	from search. 2 variables selected in Dacabasket.	Browse/Select Highlighted Variables
→ Apr 2010	Topic Name	Availability	Variable Label	Mergeable
● Mar 2010	Labor Force Variables PEHRAC	T1 Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-# hours actually worked at main job	No
● Feb 2010	Labor Force Variables PEHRAC	T2 Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-# hours actually worked at other job(s)	No
→ Jan 2010	Labor Force Variables PEHRAC	TT Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-# hours actually worked at all jobs	No
Dec 2009	Labor Force Variables PEHRAV	L Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-(part-timer)available for full-time,y/n	No
♦ Nov 2009	Labor Force Variables PEHRFT	PT Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-usually work full-time,y/n	No
Oct 2009	Labor Force Variables PEHRRS	N1 Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-(part-timer)reason	No
◆ Sep 2009	Labor Force Variables PEHRRS	N2 Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-(part-timer)reason not full-time	No
→ Aug 2009	Labor Force Variables PEHRRS	N3 Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-(full-timer)reason part-time last week	No
→ Jul 2009	Labor Force Variables PEHRUS	L1 Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-# hours usually worked at main job	No
→ Jun 2009	Labor Force Variables PEHRUS	L2 Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-# hours usually worked at other job(s)	No
May 2009	Labor Force Variables PEHRUS	LT Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-# hours usually worked at all jobs	No
→ Apr 2009	Labor Force Variables PEHRW	ANT Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-full-time work desired, y/n	No
● Mar 2009	Demographic Variables PEHSPN	ON Jan 2003 - current	Demographics- hispanic/non-hispanic origin	No
Feb 2009	Labor Force Variables PEJHRS	N Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-(not in, job history)reason left last job	No
Jan 2009	Labor Force Variables PEJHWA	ANT Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-(not in, job history)look for work in next year	No
Dec 2008	Labor Force Variables PEJHWk	O Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-(not in,job history)worked in past year,y/n	No
♦ Nov 2008	Labor Force Variables PELAYA	VL Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-(layoff)available for work if recalled,y/n	No
→ Oct 2008	Labor Force Variables PELAYD	UR Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-(layoff)# weeks looking for job	No
	Labor Force Variables PELAYF	TO Jan 1994 - current	Labor Force-(layoff)from full-time job,y/n	No
	l ahor Force Variables PFI ΔVI I	Zan 1994 - current	l abor Force-(lavoff)called back still looking for work v/n	No

• Scroll through the list of variables and highlight PEHSPNON. Then click Browse\Select Highlighted Variables.

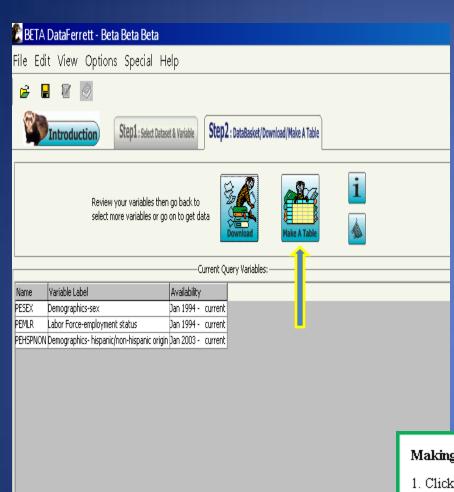


- The pop-up window appears, to browse and/or select variable and values.
- Check the box next to **Select**. This will select all the values applicable for that variable.
- Then click OK to add the variable to the basket.
- Then click OK to confirm your selection of this variable to the Data Basket.



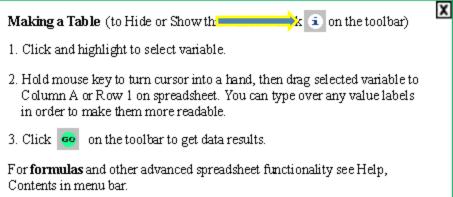


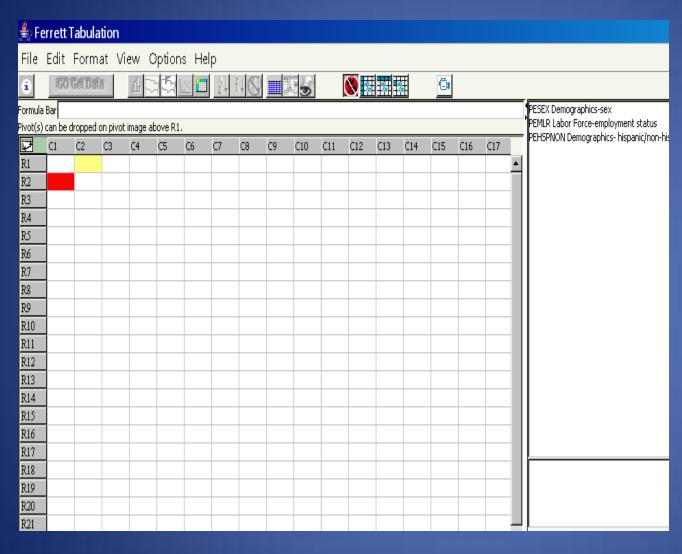
• Click on the Step 2 tab to create your table.



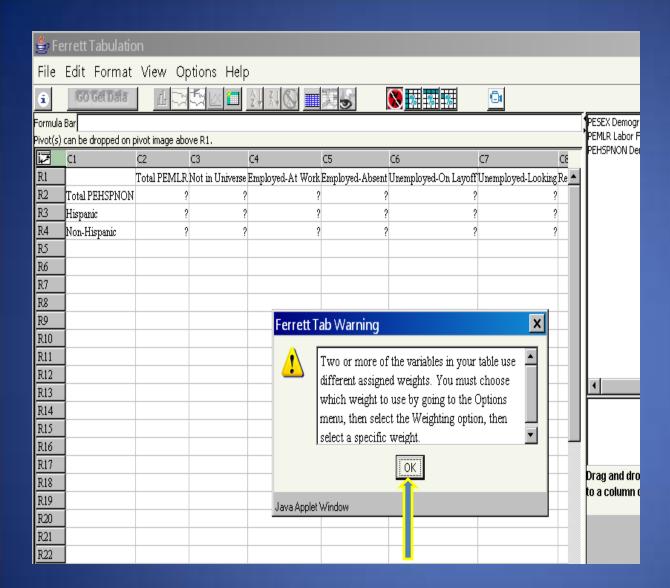
Click the "Make A Table" icon.

• A pop-up window appears, giving instructions for building your table. To Hide or Show this window click "i" on the tool bar, or click the "X".

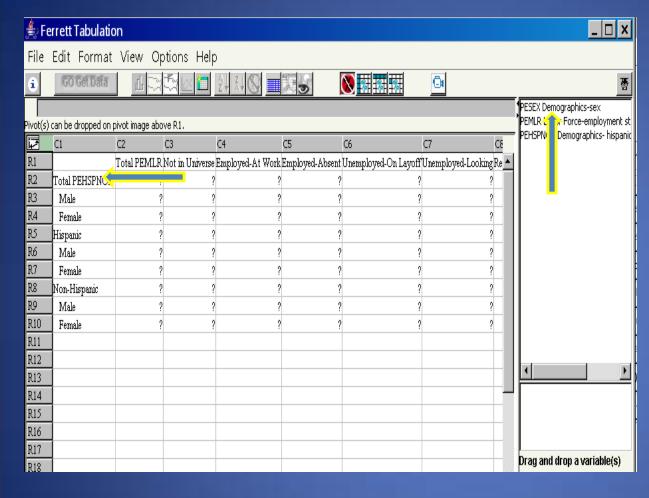




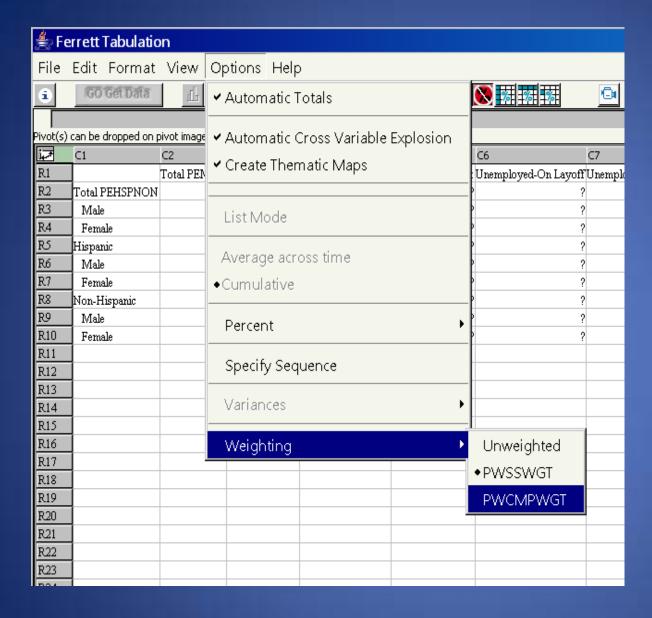
- To start creating the table highlight PEMLR in the right-hand box, then click and drag it to cell C2, R1 (yellow)
- Then, click and drag PEHSPNON to cell C1, R2 (red).
- Make Sure not to use cellC1, R1



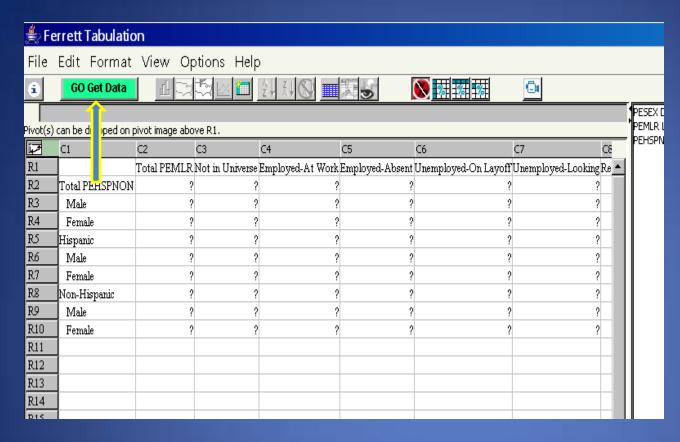
• A warning pops up stating that there are different weights being used. This is fine, because we are going to use weighting related to Labor Force Variables. Click the ok box.



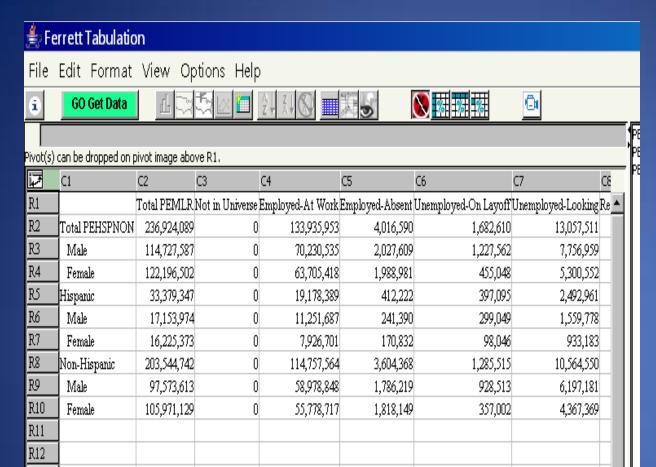
- •Take PESEX and drop it into C1,R2.
- •This procedure is called nesting, and it will cause Hispanic origin to be broken down by sex.



 Click "Options" in the tool bar, scroll down to Weighting, and select PWCMPWGT.
 PWCMPWGT is the weight used by the Bureau of Labor
 Statistics for the official labor force data.



 Click on "Go Get Data" and the table will populate.



 The end result is a populated table with the information you specified.

## **Final Notes**

This is not a comprehensive guide to Data Ferrett, nor has it touched on the full potential of the web application. The Data Ferrett team has a great deal of information for users to learn the program, and even some details of the more advanced

▶Production DataFe

We recommend using

Application

▶QuickTour

▶Users' Guide

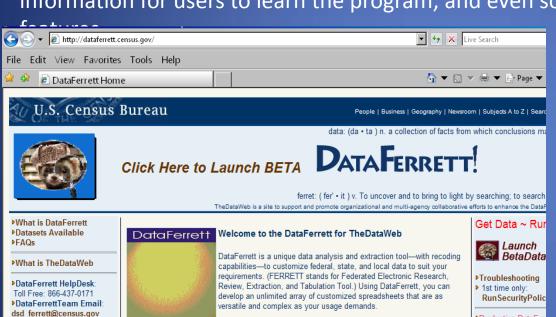
Advanced Topics

▶Types of Datasets

▶Use Examples

▶DataSet Topics

▶Tutorials



resides.

▶DataFerrett Video

The DataFerrett helps you locate and retrieve the data you need across

the Internet to your desktop or system, regardless of where the data

You can then develop and customize tables. Selecting your results in

your table you can create a chart or graph for a

The DataFerrett is a Beta testing version that will incorporate the latest bug fixes, enhancements,

and new functionality that will be rolled into the DataFerrett after testing has been completed.

html page. Save your data in the databasket and save your table for continued reuse

For more information go to, http://dataferrett.census.gov/. On the right hand side of the screen you will find links to tutorials and other resources,

which are extremely helpful.

Finally, a note on the weighting: When in doubt refer to the technical documentation (see introduction). In most cases if you do not receive the warning about weighting you can proceed with the default weighting selected by Ferrett.

## **Contact Information**

The Current Population Survey (CPS) Branch is part of the Demographics Surveys Division of the United States Census Bureau. Refer any data related questions to the CPS. The branch can be reached at 1-301-763-3806, or visit ask.census.gov to submit an inquiry over our net-based system.

If you have questions or are experiencing technical issues in Data Ferrett please contact the Data Ferrett team at 866-437-0171 or send email inquiries to dsd\_ferrett@census.gov.